



MONARCHICAL CHURCH

Papalisation of the church

Triumphal, juridical, and clerical

Pre-Vatican II Magisterium taught and ruled without any contribution from the laity

Their sole role was to obey

Church is neither a democracy nor a monarchy

CHANGES AT VATICAN II

Recovery of the centrality of baptism – all sharing in Christ's royal priesthood

Trinity

Holy Spirit

People of God – Pilgrim Church

VATICAN II & *THE PEOPLE OF GOD*

The most fundamental Christian calling is baptism and all the baptised share in Christ's prophetic, priestly and kingly offices. LG #10-13

"This tells us that no one in the Church is useless... we are all necessary for building the Temple. No one is secondary. No one is the most important person in the Church, we are all equal in God's eyes." Francis

"Inverted pyramid" all are servants

"LAY" – "NON-CLERICAL"?

Revelation – personal encounter with God – *sensus fidei*

Sense or instinct for God

"The *sensus fidei* prevents a rigid separation between an *Ecclesia docens* and an *Ecclesia discens*, since the flock likewise has an instinctive ability to discern the new ways that the Lord is revealing to the Church."

Consult the people

Instructing the Bishops to speak up, *parrhesia*

Even today he wants to encourage open discussion and refuses to silence dissent

"Open and fraternal debate makes theological and pastoral thought grow.... That doesn't frighten me. What's more, I look for it."

Because he believes that in listening to one another we are listening to the Spirit

TWO SYNODS ON THE FAMILY

COMMUNAL MODEL OF MAGISTERIUM

All belong to the People of God
 All participate in teaching and learning
 People express their faith in liturgy, daily living, in their sharing
 The bishops affirm this faith, and if the need be give a doctrinal teaching or legislate
 Faithful engage this new teaching with their sense of the faith
 Cycle begins again



BREATHING TOGETHER

All learn and teach
 All respect, listen with a spirit of parrhesia
 Clericalism
 taking too much responsibility
 Failing to notice the talents and charisms of the faithful

Synodality

“A synodal Church is a Church which listens, which realizes that listening “is more than simply hearing”. It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the college of bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the “Spirit of truth” (Jn 14:17), in order to know what he “says to the Churches” (Rev2:7).”



THIS WILL REQUIRE NEW SKILLS, STRUCTURES AND CULTURE

New more adult level of responsibility for all: bishops, priests and people
 Structures for consultation
 Learning to speak
 Learning to listen
 Learning to discern

WHY EVEN MORE DISCERNMENT?

Takes time and discussion to know what is deep in our hearts
 Even more prayer and time to know what the **Spirit** is leading us towards
 Listen to what the Spirit is saying – among the many, varied strongly held and sometimes contradictory opinions
 Need bold but humble and generous hearts to speak and also listen attentively, trusting the intentions of others
 Needs to be of the Spirit to be attractive, life-giving and lasting
 If we can develop these habits among the people of God we will have achieved a new culture in the church, irrespective of the other good things we may achieve at the Plenary Council.



A HUMBLE BUT CONFIDENT POPE

Lead us to be a transformed, humble and yet confident, missionary Church